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Grosbeak Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons* feeding on a frog

On 12 June 1984 in Dar es Salaam I observed a female Grosbeak Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons* take and eat a frog. The weaver was perched high on a tall sedge growing from a recently filled rain-fed pond. The sun had set and the sound of frogs filled the air. The bird moved sideways down the sedge stem some 50 cm until almost at water level. The small frog—not much larger than the bird's head—was taken and carried in the bill back towards the top of the stem. The bird remained on the stem, holding the frog in its left foot, and deliberately tore it into small pieces which it swallowed whole.

Grosbeak Weavers were breeding nearby and no doubt the relatively large and protein-rich food source was most valuable. McLachlan & Liversidge (1968) mention insects "and even mice in captivity" as well as berries and seeds in the diet of the species. However, Maclean (1985) mentions only insects, fruit and seeds, the earlier reference to mice being omitted. H.T. Laycock (pers. comm.), who has studied this species for many years in southern Africa, believes the reference to mice is erroneous.

It is surprising that such a presumably valuable and abundant food source is not taken more often. Perhaps observations at dusk (when frogs are most active) have been limited.

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